New Franken Catholic Church Will Be Dedicated on Thursday

St. Killian Congregation Replaces Building Lost in Fire; Bishop Bona Will Officiate

Special to Press-Gazette

NEW FRANKEN, Wis.—St. Killian Catholic congregation will dedicate its new church building, third in 99 years, at 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

The modern brick structure replaces the building which was destroyed by fire Sept. 15, 1948. Services have been held in the new church since last Christmas, but construction was not completed until this spring. The Rev. Cornelius Raymakers is the pastor.

Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona will officiate at the dedication rites. He will be assisted by Msgr. Chester A. Ropella, chancellor of the Green Bay diocese, as master of ceremonies; the Rev. Francis Heimann, Algoma, deacon, and the Rev. Joseph Diny, Green Bay, sub-deacon.

The dedication is scheduled for 10 o'clock, and will be preceded by a procession into the new church. The solemn hig mass of thanksgiving will be sung by a son of the parish, the Rev. Raymond Schauer, pastor of St. Mary's church at Brillion.

Assistants at Mass

Assisting at the mass will be former St. Killian pastors. They include the Rev. Herman J. Schmitz, Sawyer, as presbyter assistant; the Rev. Nicholas Diedrich, Hortonville, deacon, and the Rev. Joseph A. Bartelme, Chilton, subdeacon.

In the sanctuary during the dedication rites will be Msgrs. Joseph A. Marx, vicar general of the diocese; John H. Huhn, dean of Kewaunee county, and John J. Loerke, dean of Brown county, along with pastors of neighboring churches and Green Bay.

St. Killian's church choir will sing under the direction of the Rev. Norbert Rank, Allouez. Following the dedication there will be a dinner for the bishop, his assistants and visiting dignitaries, and other clergy and guests.

Will Seat 450

The new church, 46 by 109 feet in size, will seat 450 persons in the nave. Of modern Gothic architecture, it is practically fireproof in construction.

The exterior is of buff brick, with Indiana limestone trip. Blond woodwork contrasts with the exposed brick of the interior, and the floors are of asphalt tile.

Much of the work was donated by members of the congregation, helping to keep the construction cost to about $100,000. Robert Surplice, Green Bay, was the architect, and Frank Nemetz, Denmark, the contractor. Work started April 21, 1949.

The history of the congregation goes back almost to the initial settlement of German immigrants in New Franken in 1845. At first they traveled some distance to neighboring churches, but on April 26, 1850, they obtained 10 acres of land for a church site and burial lot.

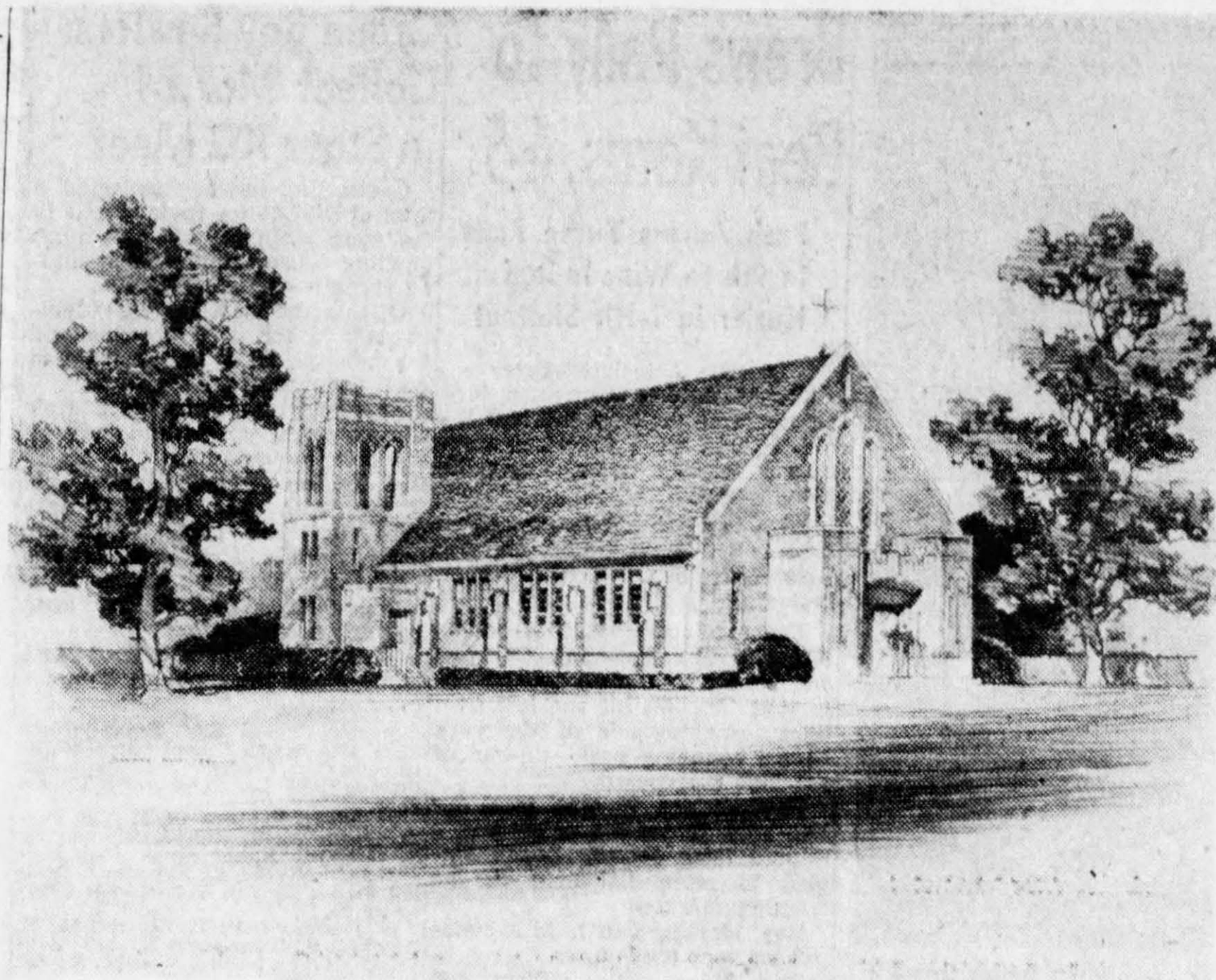
During the winter of 1850-51 the steelers felled trees for a log church which was 28 by 45 feet in size. The congregation then numbered 30 families. The land was donated by John P. Schauer and his wife, Marianna.

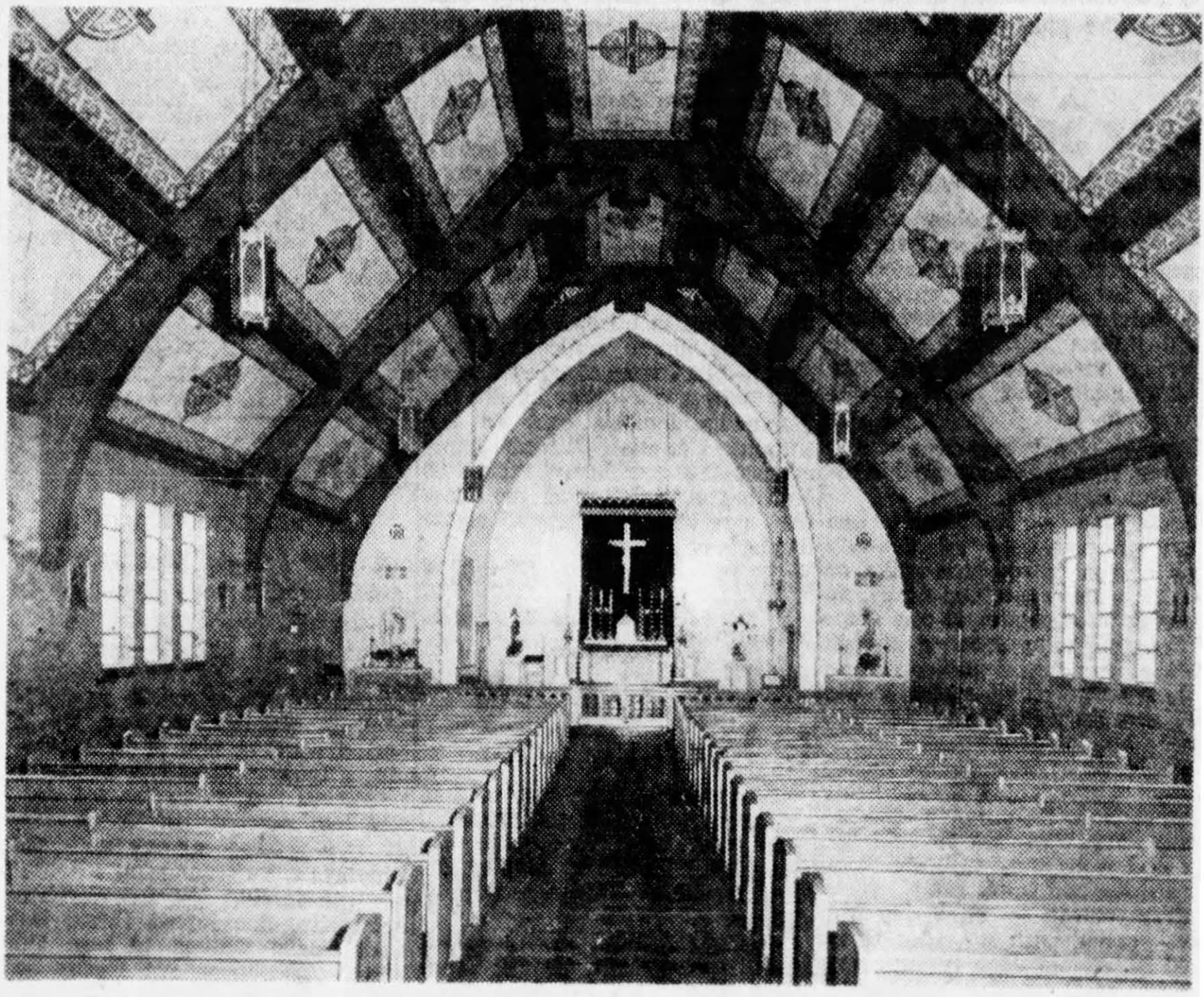
Second Church Built

Due to the growth of the settlement the little log church became inadequate. The Rev. W. Boden, the pastor at the time, supervised the construction of a 40 by 70-foot church building in 1868 at a cost of $2,628. Later a 20-foot addition was erected.

After the fire in 1948 the congregation, now consisting of 85 families, made plans immediately for the new church. Meanwhile, a vacant room in the New Franken public school was obtained for week-day services. For Sunday, the congregation used the Cosmopolitan hall in the village which was made available through the Albert Greiling family.

The building committee included Father Raymakers, pastor; Erwin Schauer, secretary; Peter Tauschek, treasurer, and Carl Basten, Henry Basten, Joseph Peters, Antone Allen and John C. Heim.





Dedication of the new St. Killian church at New Franken, exterior and interior views of which are pictured above, will take place at 10 o'clock Thursday morning. The building replaces the structure destroyed by fire in 1948. Seating accommodations for some 450 persons are provided. Virtually fireproof in construction, it has an exterior of buff brick with Indiana limestone trim.